

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE TURKEY REGIONAL NEWS

August 2004

**Foreign Agricultural Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
With offices in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey;
Almaty, Kazakhstan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

Covering Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Bioterrorism Act Update: Delay in Full Enforcement

Full Enforcement of the U.S. Bioterrorism Act Prior Notice (Phase IV) will be delayed for three months. The U.S. Compliance Policy Guide, issued by FDA and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stated that for the first 8 months of implementation of the Act, the two agencies would utilize communication and education initiatives; escalating to the imposition of penalties and ultimately, refusal of shipments. This phased-in approach to enforcement would end on August 12, 2004, at which time full compliance would be expected beginning August 13th. FDA, with CBP concurrence, will delay full implementation of all of the prior notice interim final rule (IFR) data elements from August 13, 2004 to November 1, 2004 (all data elements, except 3 will be enforced on August 13th). This limited extension until November 1, 2004 will apply to situations involving: (1) failure to provide a registration number; (2) failure to provide a bill of lading or airway bill number, when required or provide the ultimate consignee information in the prior notice; and (3) failure to provide registration numbers for entries of samples used for quality assurance, research, or analysis (i.e. not for consumption). This will also delay issuing the prior notice final rule until June 2005. FDA and CBP announced that they have issued a Revised Compliance Schedule for Enforcement of The Prior Notice Interim Final Rule and Contingency Plan for Prior Notice System Outages. A revised Compliance Policy Guide has been posted on FDA's Bioterrorism website at: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2004/ANS01304.html>

The following Prior Notice documents were recently issued:

- ❑ **Compliance Summary Information: Prior Notice**
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pnsum.html>
- ❑ **Prior Notice of Imported Food: Contingency Plan for System Outages**
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pndguid.html>
- ❑ **Joint FDA-CBP Plan for Increasing Integration and Assessing the Coordination of Prior Notice Timeframes**
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/pnplan2.html>
- ❑ **Compliance Policy Guide**
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pn/cpgpn3.html>

FAS Ankara Commodity Reporting Updates

TU4028 Wheat Update

2004 wheat production estimates were increased to 17.7 million tons as TMO steps in to market with significant domestic purchases.

TU4027 Tobacco Policy Update

The GOT announced tax reforms that favor the consumption of oriental tobacco. TEKEL stands to benefit from the changes while other companies may introduce new products and increasing prices.

TU4026 Treenut Annual

Hazelnut production significantly damaged by frost this year. Losses could be as high as 300,000 tons as current production estimate is at 425,000 tons. Fiskobirlik announces procurement price of over 5,000,000 TL per kilo inshell.

TU4025 Import Policy Report

A new food law provides a new framework for developing and implementing changes to specific standards such as the Turkish Food Codex. This law calls for the creation of a yet-to-be established National Food Codex Commission whose responsibility will be to prepare, review and approve all changes to the Turkish Codex, including those changes that take place through EU harmonization.

See www.fas.usda.gov for more!

Have you signed up for Buyer Alerts?

Distributed to buyers worldwide, the FAS Buyer Alerts electronic newsletter provides information on qualified U.S. suppliers of food, farm, seafood and forest products. Each bi-weekly edition provides notices that include product description, company name, and contact information. After receiving a Buyer Alert, you may then contact prospective U.S. suppliers directly. The Buyer Alerts are now also available in English, Spanish and Portuguese!

To register to start receiving the newsletter free of charge, or to view the current edition visit:

<http://www.usdabuyeralerts.com>.

Helpful Hint: To find information on non-food products such as nutritional supplements, farm equipment or food processing equipment, visit the Department of Commerce Website:

<http://www.buyusa.com>

For More information on FAS' Services

Please visit...

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/buying.html>

...for a complete summary of all FAS marketing services which includes links to Suppliers Lists and a Distributor's Directory of suppliers who supply mixed containers of grocery and high-value food items.

Office Contact Information

Ankara, Turkey

Jim Higgiston, Agricultural Counselor
Robert Hanson, Agricultural Attache
Unal Sarigedik, Agricultural Specialist
Tel: +90-312-468-6129
Fax: +90-312-467-0056
Email: agankara@fas.usda.gov

Istanbul, Turkey

Ibrahim Sirtioğlu, Ag Marketing Specialist
Tel: +90-212-335-9068/9140
Fax: +90-312-335-9077
Email: fasistanbul@state.gov

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Nizam Yuldashbaev, Agricultural Specialist
Tel: +998-71-120-54-50/47
Direct: +998-71-120-5989
Fax: +998-71-120-63-35
Email: agtashkent@fas.usda.gov

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Alexander Simon, Agricultural Specialist
Tel: +7-3272-50-76-16
Fax: +7-3272-50-76-35/36
Email: agalmaty@nursat.kz